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(54) **PROCESS FOR IMPROVING GLUCOSE METABOLISM, SATIETY, AND NUTRIENT ABSORPTION IN COMPANION ANIMALS**

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(58) **Field of Search** 424/442, 438, 424/484, 488, 195.18, 773; 426/2, 71, 635, 639, 640; 514/54, 22, 777, 779, 780, 782

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A process for feeding an animal a diet which alters the function and morphology of the gastrointestinal tract (GIT), a large lymphoid organ in the animal and which improves glucose metabolism, satiety, and nutrient absorption. The process involves feeding a companion animal such as, for example, a dog or cat a diet of a pet food composition containing fermentable fibers which have an organic matter disappearance (OMD) of 15 to 60 percent when fermented by fecal bacteria for a 24 hour period, the fibers being present in amounts from about 1 to 11 weight percent of supplemental total dietary fiber. The animal is maintained on the diet for a sufficient period of time to allow the fermentable fibers to ferment in the GIT of the animal.

14 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets